GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
SEPARATE LEGISLATION FOR OPEN CAST MINES
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate separate legislation for open cast mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that coal mines under the Western Coalfields Limited are facing non-availability of sand for stowing purpose due to mafia sand contractors; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to eliminate them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES SUSHREE UMA BHARATI

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The draft regulation for the opencast mines has been circulated for comments of various stakeholders.

The proposed regulation for opencast mines provide definitions of terminologies used in opencast workings, returns, notices & records, examinations & certificates of competency and of fitness, inspections and duties & responsibilities of mine officials, plans & sections, mine workshops, precautions against dangers from fire, dust, noise, etc., explosives and shotfiring, surface and opencast machinery, plants, equipments & apparatus and miscellaneous safety provisions applicable in opencast mines. Special feature of the proposed regulations, aims at providing the concept of "self regulations", instead of "prescriptive regulations". The management of every opencast mine will be required to prepare and implement the "safety management plan" in respect of his mine. This will take care of any future change in technology of the mine. In addition, all the opencast mines falling under the category of Coal & Metalliferous shall be regulated by this single "opencast regulations" instead of "Coal Mines Regulation, 1957" and "Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961".

(c) &(d): WCL is not facing any problem of non-availability of sand for stowing purpose due to mafia, sand contractors.